57
SEASON
PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE PRESENTS:
JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
APRIL 24 - MAY 17
PLAYHOUSE ON THE SQUARE
DIRECTED BY:
CLAIRE D. KOLHEIM
CHOREOGRAPHER:
NOELIA WARNETTE-JONES
MUSIC DIRECTOR:
TAMMY HOLT
MUSIC BY:
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
LYRICS BY:
TIM RICE
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Playhouse on the Square
Presents

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Show Sponsors: Robert Briggs, Briggs-Sedrel Charitable, Jerry and Nina Patton Family Foundation, Sylvamo // Playhouse on the Square Season Sponsor: Dorothy O. Kirsch Circuit Playhouse, Inc. Super Sponsor: Dr. Thomas Ratliff

Starring

Jeremy Bukauskas Cameron Crawford Braxton Gilliland Marvin Holt
Christopher McCollum Daniel Stuart Nelson Drew Sinnard Justin Allen Tate Alan Toney

with

Hunter Burton Zoe Dunay Chad Fruscione Amaya Hardin Randall Hill
Kylah Hood Mads Jackson Madilyn Mobbs Brooke Papritz Ashley Sade
Caroline Simpson Claiborne "CJ" Thomas Haley Wilson

Costume Designer
Lindsay Schmeling

Scenic Designer
Lex Van Blommestein

Lighting Designer
Petr William

Sound Designer
Joshua Crawford

Properties Designer
Iza Bateman

Technical Director
Phillip Hughen

Production Manager
Phillip Hughen

Stage Manager
Tessa Verner

Assistant Stage Manager
Hallie Charlefour

Music Director
Tammy Holt

Choreographer
Noelia Warnette-Jones

Directed by Claire D. Kolheim

April 24 - May 17, 2026

Jesus Christ Superstar is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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-Please turn off all cell phones and alarms.
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Musical Numbers

Act I

Overture.....Orchestra
Heaven on Their Minds.....Judas
What's the Buzz?.....Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Ensemble
Strange Thing Mystifying.....Judas, Jesus, Ensemble
Everything's Alright.....Mary Magdalene, Judas, Apostles, Ensemble
This Jesus Must Die.....Annas, Caiaphas, Priests, Ensemble
Hosanna.....Jesus, Caiaphas, Ensemble
Simon Zealotes/ Poor Jerusalem.....Jesus, Simon, Ensemble
Pilate's Dream.....Pilate
The Temple.....Jesus, Ensemble
Everything's Alright (Reprise).....Mary Magdalene, Jesus
I Don't Know How to Love Him.....Mary Magdalene
Damned For All Time/ Blood Money.....Judas, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble

Act II

The Last Supper.....Jesus, Judas, Apostles, Ensemble
Gethsemane.....Jesus, Judas
The Arrest.....Peter, Jesus, Caiaphas, Annas, Ensemble
Peter's Denial.....Peter, Mary Magdalene
Pilate and Christ/Herod's Song.....Jesus, Pilate, Annas, Herod, Ensemble
Could We Start Again, Please?.....Mary Magdalene, Peter, Ensemble
Judas's Death..... Judas, Annas, Caiaphas, Ensemble
Trial By Pilate/ 39 Lashes.....Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas, Jesus, Ensemble
Superstar.....Judas, Ensemble
Crucifixion.....Jesus, Ensemble
John 19:41.....Jesus, Ensemble

This production is performed in Two Acts with One 15-minute Intermission

The Orchestra

Music Director/Conductor/Keys 3.....Tammy Holt
Assistant Music Director/Keys 2.....Patti House
Keys 3/Music Coordinator.....Tom Johnson
Reeds.....Alan Clayton
Trumpet.....Tyler Helms
Horn.....Jimmy Rhine
Guitar.....Will Lang
Bass.....Jim Madden
Drums.....Kim Trammell

Special Thanks

The Cast & Crew would like to thank the following for their important support on this production:
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The Cast of *Jesus Christ Superstar* *(in alphabetical order)*

Caiaphas.....Jeremy Bukauskas
Mary Magdelene.....Cameron Crawford
Judas.....Braxton Gilliland
Jesus.....Marvin Holt
King Herod.....Christopher McCollum
Simon.....Daniel Stuart Nelson**
Peter.....Drew Sinnard**
Pilate.....Justin Allen Tate
Annas.....Alan Toney*
Ensemble.....Hunter Burton, Zoe Dunay, Chad Fruscione*, Amaya Hardin*, Randall Hill, Kylah Hood, Mads Jackson*, Madilyn Mobbs, Brooke Papritz**, Ashley Sade, Caroline Simpson**, Claiborne "CJ" Thomas, Haley Wilson

***Denotes Resident Company Member*
** Denotes Associate Resident Company Member*

The Staff of *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Director.....Claire D. Kolheim
Choreographer.....Noelia Warnette-Jones
Music Director.....Tammy Holt
Stage Manager.....Tessa Verner
Assistant Stage Manager/Run Crew.....Hallie Charlefour
Costume Designer.....Lindsay Schmeling
Lighting Designer.....Petr William
Scenic Designer.....Lex Van Blommestein
Sound Designer.....Joshua Crawford
Properties Designer.....Iza Bateman
Dance Captains.....Cameron Crawford, Haley Wilson
Fight Captain.....Daniel Stuart Nelson
Run Crew.....Moira Williamson
Wardrobe.....Andrej Nawoj
Lighting Assistant.....Robert Kovacs
Production Electricians.....Raven Raleigh, Petr William
Production Manager.....Phillip Hughen
Technical Director.....Phillip Hughen
Assistant Technical Director.....Christopher Lee Raines
Set Construction.....Max Fairman, Phillip Hughen, Michael Jurkovic, Christopher Lee Raines, Haley Reed, Drew Sinnard, Moira Williamson
Costume Shop Manager.....Brittany Bauer
Costume Shop.....Brittany Bauer, Sky Bell, Sphinx Curtis, Bridgette Hutchison, Caelan Ingram, Kathleen R. Kovarik, Mary Jane Maroon, Lindsay Schmeling, Waverly Strickland
Administrative Offices/Front of House.....Graham Shelton

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Who's Who in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Jeremy Bukauskas (he/him) (*Caiaphas*) is thrilled to be making his Playhouse debut. His local theatre credits include Tennessee Shakespeare Company's *Taming of the Shrew* (Gremio); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Barrachio/Friar); *Comedy of Errors* (Duke Solinas); *R&J Project* (Lord Capulet); Theatre Memphis' *A Christmas Carol* (Christmas Present) and *The Crucible* (Willard); and Germantown Community Theatre's *Four Weddings and an Elvis* (Fist). Jeremy was born and raised in Memphis, growing up participating in POTS Summer Conservatories and Teens N Theatre, and graduating from Overton High's Creative and Performing Arts Optional program. He earned his BFA in Theatre from Arkansas State and MFA in Performance from Southern Miss.

Hunter Burton (he/him) (*Ensemble/Simon Understudy*) is very excited to be in his second production here at Playhouse on the Square! He has taught a session of adult musical theatre classes and adult acting classes with POTS, but before Memphis, he was a board member of Masquerade Theatre in Union City, TN. There he choreographed several shows, such as *CATS!* Young Actors Edition; *The Wizard of Oz*; and *Cinderella.* While earning his BFA in Theatre at UT Martin, he played Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Chip in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; and many more. After graduating, he had the honor to choreograph *Legally Blonde* while also playing the role of Professor Callahan. His first role at Playhouse on the Square was Rudy the Voice in *A Bronx Tale*, and he is overjoyed to be back for *Jesus Christ Superstar*!

Cameron Crawford (she/her) (*Mary Magdelene*) is excited to share this show with audiences! She is probably most recognized from her role as Carole King in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at Theatre Memphis, for which she won an Ostrander for leading actress. Other favorite credits include *Beauty & The Beast* (Babette); *La Cage Aux Folles* (Anne); *Cats* (Bombalurina); *The Wizard of Oz* (Dance Capt, u/s Dorothy); and *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (Ensemble). She also recently choreographed *Little Women* and *Tuck Everlasting* with Desoto Family Theatre. All the love to her family and friends, and of course her dog, Charlie!

Zoe Dunay (she/her) (*Ensemble/Mary Magdelene Understudy*) is thrilled to be a part of Jesus Christ Superstar, her first Playhouse on the Square production! Dunay holds her BFA in Acting from Pace Unversity and has performed Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway in NYC. Select credits include *Urinetown* (Penelope Pennywise); *Les Miserables* (Fantine); *Shrek* (Wicked Witch/Dance Captain); *Seussical* (Mayzie La Bird); and *The Laramie Project* (Reggie Fluty). In addition to theatrical work, she can be found in many commercials and narrative film projects that have circulated throughout festivals across the country. Dunay is the Co-Founder and COO of both Blue Oak Productions & Echo Grove Media, two film production companies that are committed to telling stories rooted in truth; serving narrative entertainment and commercial realms, respectively. All my love to Aris, my family, and the team that made JCS possible. @zoedunay

Chad Fruscione (he/they) (*Ensemble/Peter Understudy*) is blessed to be a part of this group of incredible artists. Previous Playhouse credits include *Jagged Little Pill* (Phoenix); *Seussical* (Wickersham Brother); *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble u/s Tin Man & Wizard); and *Come From Away* (Ensemble u/s Kevin T & J). Other credits include *Falsettos* (Marvin); *Big Fish* (Edward Bloom); *The Moors* (The Mastiff); and *Tuck Everlasting* (Angus). Chad would like to thank the cast and production team for their joy, creativity, and talent. He dedicates this show to Karl with a K Robinson. This is all for you.

Braxton Gilliland (he/him) (*Judas/Jesus Understudy*) is thrilled to be making his POTS debut in this awesome show! Some favorite past credits include Jack Kelly (*Newsies*/DeSoto Family Theatre); Lumière (*Beauty & the Beast*/Theatre Memphis); Orin Scrivello D.D.S (*Little Shop of Horrors*/Harrell); and Sky (*Mamma Mia*/Theatre Memphis). He would like to thank his family, friends, and most importantly God for being there to support him in all his endeavors. Acts 2:38.

Amaya Hardin (she/her) (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be in her final production at Playhouse this season! She is a BFA Musical Theatre graduate from Ouachita Baptist University, ready to take the world by storm. Beyond performing, she's a choreographer, voice actor, and lyricist, who loves storytelling through various mediums. Amaya's favorite credits include *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel); *Junie B. Jones the Musical* (Junie B. Jones); and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Sandy Cheeks). She has worked both locally and professionally at theaters such as Actors Theatre of Little Rock, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and, of course, Playhouse on the Square. Amaya would like to credit her friends and family for their continued support. Her performance is dedicated to the marvelous Karl Robinson. A kind soul taken too soon, this is for you Karl with a K.

Who's Who in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Randall Hill (he/him) (*Ensemble/Caiaphas Understudy*) is a singer/actor from Memphis, Tennessee whose musical background includes singing in the internationally renowned Vesper Choir in college at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff where Randall sang Bass II for four years there, performed Handel's Messiah for their Christmas Program, and went on tour every spring break performing in various different cities and countries. As am actor, Randall has some acting experience working with Kanye West, Alice Marie, on the Free Larry Hoover Benefit Concert where he played Larry Hoover in a short film. Also, working with Alice Marie again acting in a short play about The Second Chance Act with prison reforming. Randall is fairly new to theatre and musicals on a professional level but I'm very excited to share the stage with such an amazing and talented cast for *Jesus Christ Superstar.* Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.

Marvin Holt (he/him) (*Jesus*) is excited to be performing back at POTS! He was most recently seen in *Godspell* (Ensemble); *The Wedding Singer* (Sammy); *Something Rotten!* (Nigel); and *Parade* (Jim Conley). He would like to thank the directing team for giving him this opportunity. Most importantly, he would like to thank his family and closest friends for pushing him to where he is now.

Kylah Hood (she/her) (*Ensemble*) is grateful to join Playhouse on the Square again in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She recently worked on this stage in *Caroline, or Change* as The Washing Machine. Kylah received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (Acting) at Arkansas State University (Magna Cum Laude) and her minor in Spanish. "I love learning and participating in the arts in every way I can."

Mads Jackson (she/they) (*Ensemble*) is rounding out their second year as an Associate Resident Company Member here at POTS! Originally from South Bend, Indiana, they received their BFA in Musical Theatre from Ball State University in 2024. Mads has performed in Indiana, New York, Chicago, and Pennsylvania with her current favorite credit being Frankie in *Jagged Little Pill* at Playhouse On The Square! Mads has experience as a dance captain, swing, ensemble member, writing solo cabaret shows, and more. Mads wants to capitalize on the connection and love between a cast, audience, and the story of a show. She would like to thank her partner, family and friends for their constant support!

Chris McCollum (he/him) (*King Herod*) is truly blessed to be on stage telling this story, and thankful for this dynamic team of incredible lady bosses who have been kind, compassionate, and supportive as we hope to find the soul of this piece. Chris was seen last season at POTS in *Parade* (the Governor guy) and *A Bronx Tale* (the Pizza guy). He can be seen next in *Sweeney Todd* (probably as a spooky British guy). A University of Memphis BFA graduate and 3x Ostrander Winner, Chris dedicates this performance to the memory of his mother, Princess Deb, long may she reign. Love always to his husband, JT. "Live. Laugh. Love. Eat. Pray. Love."

Madilyn Mobbs (she/her) (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be a part of this production! Some of her favorite credits in Memphis include Columbia/Usherette (*The Rocky Horror Show*); Henrietta Leavitt (*Silent Sky*); Ocean (*Ride the Cyclone*); and Cleo (*The Most Happy Fella*) at The University of Memphis; Ensemble/US Mary Lane (*Reefer Madness*) at New Moon Theatre Company; as well as, Bella (*Jagged Little Pill*) and Mary Phagan (*Parade*) at Playhouse on the Square. She wants to thank her friends, family, and partner, JD, for supporting her in all her endeavors. madilynmobbs.com

Daniel Stuart Nelson (he/him) (*Simon/King Herod Understudy*) is honored to be in his seventh season as a Resident Company Member with Circuit Playhouse, Inc. Since relocating to Memphis in 2015, Daniel has worked on more than 40 Playhouse productions earning him five Ostrander Awards as well as the prestigious Otis Smith Legacy Dance Award. Notable credits include *Come From Away*; *A Bronx Tale*; *Waitress*; *Parade*; *The Prom*; *Jersey Boys*; *Smokey Joe's Cafe*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *A Tuna Christmas*; *Indecent*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *Rock of Ages*; and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*. "Many thanks to Mike, WJ, and Dave for the continued trust and opportunities; to Claire and Noelia for the love and guidance; and a special shout out to my fiancé, Payton, for his unwavering patience, love, and support." // IG: @danielstuartnelson

Brooke Papritz (she/her) (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back on the Payhouse stage after a season as Rose in *Caroline, or Change*; Rosina Anello in *A Bronx Tale;* Janice in *Come From Away;* and sharing the role of the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz.* Brooke is celebrating her 11th season as a Resident Company Member. She most recently played Jane in the 2-person thriller *JOB* at The Circuit Playhouse. Much love to my family, Nathan, and my animal children. bpappy10 on insta

Who's Who in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Ashley Sade (she/her) (*Ensemble*) is a Houston-born dancer, choreographer, actress, and Queen. A graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington and Florida State College at Jacksonville, she is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Her recent theater credits include Hattiloo's *Take the Soul Train to Christmas*; *Succession* (Billie); and *Dreamgirls* (Joanne/Ensemble/Dance Captain), as well as Playhouse's *Chicken and Biscuits* (Simone). She is an Ostrander Award winner for *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* (Best Ensemble). Additional credits include *The O'Kays* (Clarissa); *The 24 Hour Plays*; and *Dance Nation* (Amina, Best Ensemble). Up next, she will serve as choreographer for *Hairspray* at the Ruffin Theatre. Ashley is Ms. Black Memphis USA, a member of the Memphis Grizzlies' Claw Crew, and can be seen on screen. She is grateful for her husband, Curtis, and their two children, Amira Sadé and CJ..

Caroline Simpson (she/her) (*Ensemble*) Favorite Regional Credits include Wicked Witch* (*Wizard of Oz*); Peter Pan (*Peter Pan*); Hope Cladwell* (*Urinetown*); Lady MacDuff** (*Macbeth*); Gertrude McFuzz (*Seussical*); Sister Mary Robert (*Sister Act*); Nadiya* (*When We Get Good Again*); Penny Pingleton* (*Hairspray*); and Rumpleteazer (*Cats*). Caroline is an alumnus of Belmont University, and has toured with ArtSpot Educational Theatre in Mexico, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Argentina, and Uruguay. Caroline wishes to thank her family, friends, and her cats, Roman and Leaf, for always supporting her. "Let the Sunshine In." (**Ostrander Award, *Ostrander Nomination)

Drew Sinnard (he/him) (*Peter*) is in his first year as a Resident Company Actor for Playhouse on the Square and has most recently been seen on the Playhouse and Circuit stages as Horton in *Seussical*; Trent Oliver in *The Prom*; Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *Parade*. In May of 2023, Drew graduated with his BFA in Musical Theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Drew also had the honor of representing Nebraska as a National Finalist at the 2019 Jimmy Awards in New York City. Drew would like to thank his parents, Bill and Jennifer Sinnard, and his girlfriend Rose for their never-ending support. Instagram: @drewsinnard www.drewsinnard.com

Justin Allen Tate (he/him) (*Pilate*) is a Singer/Actor/Dancer from Memphis. National Broadway Tours: *Smokey Joe's Cafe*; *Flashdance; Cirque Dreams*. POTS: *Kinky Boots* (Lola); *Something Rotten!* (Minstrel); *Hot Wing King* (Cordell). Hatilloo: *The Color Purple* (Ol' Mister); *Dreamgirls* (Marty). Theatre Memphis: *Ragtime* (Coalhouse); *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Andre). Featured Singer for Royal Caribbean International & Holland America Line. Background Vocalist for Blake Shelton, Gene Simmons of KISS, and K. Michelle. Graduate of American Musical & Dramatic Academy of New York. www.justinallentate.com

Claiborne "CJ" Thomas (he/him) (*Ensemble/Pilate Understudy*) The Director of Community Relations for Playhouse on the Square, CJ is thrilled to be back on the stage. He has performed on various stages on the west coast, in the Midwest, and most recently in Memphis. Regional credits include Mr. Tambo in *The Scottsboro Boys*; Grandpa Joe in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*; Isom in *The Hot Wing King;* and Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*. CJ is grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank all of the encouraging support he receives from one of the best theatre communities in the world. Lastly, a special shout out to our Stage Manager Tessa Verner and ASM Hallie Charlefour for all that you both have done. Thank you.

Alan Toney (he/him) (*Annas*) is so thankful to be a part of *Jesus Christ Superstar* with this very special cast and team. This is his eighth production with POTS after performing in *Waitress*; *The Wizard of Oz* 2024 & 2025; *A Bronx Tale*; *Come From Away*; *Jagged Little Pill*; and *Seussical*. Born and raised in Memphis, Alan has always had a passion for storytelling. He has an MFA in Acting from the University of Florida and a BA in Communication Studies from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He would like to thank his mom, dad, brothers, and the rest of his beautiful community for their infinite love and support. This one is for Karl "With a K" Robinson. Peace & Love. God Bless. alanmtoney.com

Haley Wilson (she/her) (*Ensemble/Judas Understudy*) was previously seen on the Playhouse on the Square stage as Beverley in *Come From Away*; *Catch Me If You Can; Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* (Singing Mary); *The Prom; Jersey Boys; Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (Sonya, Ostrander Award)*; Days Of Rage* (Jenny); *Smokey Joe's Cafe;* and as Patsy Cline in *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*. She has also enjoyed recent stints at The Circuit Playhouse in *Punk Rock Girl*; *Roe; Freckleface Strawberry; Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School;* and *POTUS;* as well as working on the Theatre Memphis stage in *Urinetown* (Little Becky Two Shoes) and *La Cage Aux Folles*. Haley holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Drake University. Forever thanks to this cast and crew of total rockstars. Insta: haley.breann.wilson

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Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Claire D. Kolheim (she/her) (Director) is a 6-time Ostrander Award-winning performer and director; and the first recipient of the Diversity on Stage and Film Award for Best Actress. She was last seen performing as Hanna in Playhouse on the Square's production of *Come From Away*, and as Aretha Franklin in Peterborough Players' production of *Beehive* in New Hampshire, and prior to the pandemic, she was a part of several Disney Cruise Lines productions on the Disney Magic. As a former Resident Company Member at Playhouse on the Square, some of her favorite credits included Celie in *The Color Purple*; Gary Coleman in *Avenue Q*; Sarah in *Ragtime*; Deloris Van Cartier in *Sister Act*; and Ann Atwater in *Best of Enemies*. She's also worked at/on numerous regional theatres, local commercials, film, and as a guest artist in various stage concerts. Claire began her directorial journey with a staged play reading of *Greater Illinois* for Playhouse on the Square's New Works contest; and directed, music directed, and choreographed Woodland Presbyterian School's production of *Shrek The Musical, JR* and *The Lion King, JR*. She's received an Ostrander nomination for Excellence in Directing for her directorial debut and the regional premiere of Lynn Nottage's Tony-nominated play *Clyde's*. "I am so grateful to this amazing cast and beautiful crew for all the hard work they put into making this show spectacular." Claire sends a special thank you to her husband and best friend, Kendall, for his endless love and support throughout this crazy time. Much love to their two dogs (Gabby and Barkley). Love to Foxy and Kingston! For more information about Claire, visit her on socials @Kolhobama.

Tammy Holt (she/her) (Music Director) has been playing and music directing all over the Memphis theatre circuit for the past 15 years. Recent music directing credits include *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God* and *The Scottsboro Boys* (Playhouse on the Square); *Porgy and Bess* (Hattiloo Theatre); *Urinetown* (Theatre Memphis); and *Indecent* (The Circuit Playhouse). She is excited to recreate this story with Claire, Emma, Noelia, and this incredible cast.

Noelia Warnette-Jones (she/her) (Choreographer) is a native New Yorker who has been a professional dancer for 29 years. Noelia graduated from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre where she received a teaching certificate and continued her education to receive a BFA in Dance from Mary-Mount Manhattan College in New York City. She moved to Memphis to accept a job offer from the University of Memphis Dance Department to teach Ballet, Jazz, and Modern dance in 2001-2003. While residing in Memphis, Noelia has performed in multiple theatre productions around the city. Her Musical Theatre credits include Deena in *Dreamgirls;* Vanessa in *In The Heights;* and Dorothy in *The Wiz* at Hattiloo Theatre, Mrs. Cory in *Mary Poppins*; A Dynamite in *Hairspray*; and the Ensembles of *Rock Of Ages* and *Legally Blonde*, just to name a few. Her movie credits include Body Double for Jada Pinkett-Smith, Director Spike Lee in Bamboozled and Lead dancer in Malcolm X, Director Hype Williams.

Tessa Verner (she/her) (Stage Manager) is originally from Amarillo, TX, and earned her BA in Theatre with an emphasis in Stage Management from Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX. Tessa has also worked with Ohio Light Opera, Kings Dominion, and Cedar Point, and is an active member of the Stage Managers' Association, serving as a Regional Representative and member of the Financial Oversight Committee. Recent credits include *Brigadoon* and *Carousel* (Ohio Light Opera); *Caroline, or Change*; *Parade*; *The Wizard of Oz* (2022–2025); *Waitress*; and *Catch Me If You Can* (Playhouse on the Square).Tessa would like to thank the production team, cast, and crew for their hard work and dedication to this production.

Hallie Charlefour (she/her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to continue her theatre career at Playhouse On The Square. Hallie has been involved in theater since middle school, where she fell in love with the magic of theater. She graduated from Albion College with her BA in Theatre. Recent credits include *The Cousin From Batavia*; *Carousel*; *Tip-Toes*; *Hedda Gabler;* and *Twelfth Night*. She is so thankful for her friends and family for believing in her.

Lindsay Schmeling (she/her) (Costume Designer) Since joining the Playhouse family in 2016, Lindsay has been living her best life designing for the wonderful variety of shows that are produced here in Memphis. Some of her favorite past designs include *Torch Song*; *Perfect Arrangement*; *Heathers*; and *Indecent,* for which Lindsay received the Ostrander Award for Excellence in Costume Design for a Drama. Before Playhouse, Lindsay was the Resident Costume Designer for the Springer Opera House and the Oak Park Festival in Illinois. She also spent time working at the Lexington Children's Theatre and the Olney Theatre Center. Lindsay received her MFA from Northern Illinois University, a BA from the College of Charleston, and studied at the Moscow Art Theatre. Much love to her very understanding parents, her very witty husband, and her very indifferent cat.

Petr William (he/him) (Lighting Designer) is a Midwest-born-and-raised lighting and media designer. He is a recent transplant to Memphis and Playhouse on the Square. In January 2025, he received the KCACTF Region 3 Excellence in Design Award in both Lighting and Media Design. He moved on to the national festival at the Kennedy Center where he was awarded two awards: Second Place in Lighting Design and Third Place in Media Design. He was also awarded a Lighting Design Fellowship at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, CT. Previous credits include *Macbeth* (Projection Design); *Hand to God* (Lighting Design); *Carrie* (Projection Design); *When We Dead Awaken* (Lighting Design); *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Associate Lighting Design); and *The Laramie Project* (Associate Lighting Design). More of his work can be found at www.petrwilliamcreative.com

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Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Lex Van Blommestein (he/him) (Scenic Designer) is a theatre, event, and commercial designer based out of Marquette, Michigan. He currently teaches at Northern Michigan University while maintaining a prolific national and international design career. He earned his MFA from Wayne State University's Hilberry Repertory Program in Detroit, and has designed in Edwardsville, IL; St. Louis, MO; Cincinatti, OH; Raleigh, NC; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; Detroit, MI; Lansing, MI; Windsor, ON; Amsterdam, NL to name a few. Lex's recent credits at Playhouse on the Square include *9 to 5* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. "I'm super excited to be back here and hope to continue to call Playhouse on the Square one of my new theatre homes for many years to come. I'd love to thank my wife – Em, and my two girls – Ruby and Talvi. To you all – thanks for watching and supporting us and the arts. Cheers!"

Joshua Crawford (he/him) (Sound Designer) Considering that designing a show at Playhouse on the Square has been on his bucket list the last few years, saying Joshua is excited to be working here is an understatement. He has done work for Theatre Memphis, Desoto Family Theatre, and The Harrell Theater for shows such as *The Music Man*; *Shrek the Musical; Mamma Mia!;* and many more. Getting to work straight out of high school, he's pushing to bring the best sound experience he can to match the work of the incredible staff and designers he gets to work with everyday!

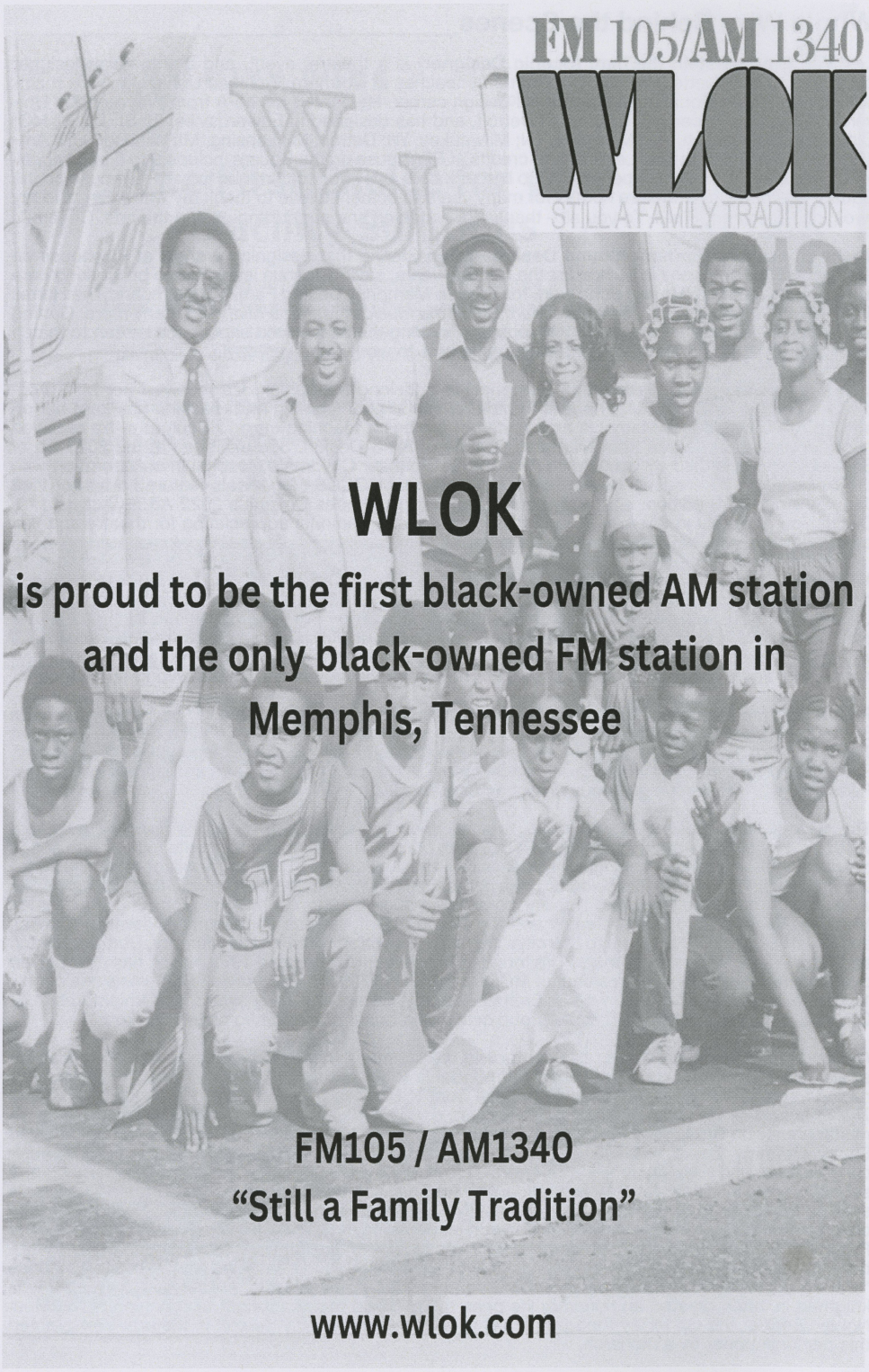
Iza Bateman (she/her) (Properties Designer) is a lifelong Memphian. Iza received her MFA from the University of Memphis in Fine Arts Sculpture. Her love of learning and teaching has kept her on staff at the University of Memphis as an adjunct professor teaching Intro to Sculpture. Iza received her undergraduate degree from Memphis College of Art & Design. She exhibited at the 2023 Art of Science exhibition held by Crosstown Arts and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in collaboration with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, was *FOCUS Magazine*'s featured artist for their January-April 2023 edition, and was a guest panelist on Rhodes College's 2022 Art as Activism - a Discussion of Equity in the Arts. A long family history and personal appreciation for theatre and film production has brought Iza to the Playhouse team.

Michael Jurkovic (he/him) (Technical Director) is originally from the Chicago suburb Naperville, but he is so excited to be working at Playhouse on the Square! Michael graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2018 with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology with an emphasis in Technical Direction. One of his favorite shows he has worked on outside of Memphis was *TEXAS: Outdoor Musical* where he worked for two summers. Michael serves as the Assistant Technical Director of Circuit Playhouse, Inc. and oversees numerous shows at The Circuit Playhouse and TheatreWorks@TheSquare.

Phillip Hughen (he/him) (Production Manager) is very excited to be continuing as Playhouse on the Square's Resident Technical Director and Production Manager. Previously, Phillip was the Assistant Technical Director/Resident Sound Designer at Playhouse on the Square for the 2002-2005 Seasons. Favorite previous credits include *Bat Boy; Ragtime* (2003 and 2011); *Macbeth*; and *Angels in America: Parts 1 and 2*. Much love goes out to his beautiful wife Katharine.

Tim Rice (Lyrics) has worked in music, theatre, and films since 1965 when he met Andrew Lloyd Webber, a fellow struggling songwriter. Rather than pursue Tim's ambitions to write rock or pop songs they turned their attention to Andrew's obsession – musical theatre. Their early collaborations include- *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; *Jesus Christ Superstar;* and *Evita*. Tim has since worked with other distinguished popular composers such as Elton John (*The Lion King*; *Aida*), Alan Menken (*Aladdin*; *King David*; *Beauty and the Beast*), Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson (*Chess*), and Stuart Brayson (From Here to Eternity). He has also written with Freddie Mercury, Burt Bacharach and Rick Wakeman, among others. Tim founded his own cricket team in 1973, which has now played over 750 matches, and was president of MCC, founded in 1789, in 2002. As an EGOT, he is one of only 17 people in the world to have won an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony award, was knighted by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 1994, and is the proud owner of a boxer dog and two dozen chickens.

Andrew Lloyd Webber (Music) has composed the scores of some of the world's most famous musicals. His shows have run continuously in London's West End for 50 years and ran for 43 uninterrupted years on Broadway. When the original *Sunset Boulevard* joined *School of Rock*; *CATS;* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, he equalled Rodgers & Hammerstein's record of four shows running simultaneously on Broadway. He is one of the select group of artists with EGOT status, having received Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards. Lloyd Webber is passionate about the importance of musical education and diversity in the arts. Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation provides 30 performing arts scholarships every year for talented students with financial need, and supports a range of projects such as the Music In Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST). In academic year September 2025-26, 14,885 children are being given free musical tuition and instruments as part of MiSST's Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme. The Foundation also commissions research into diversity in theatre. Andrew Lloyd Webber has composed music for globally significant moments. Most recently, he was asked to compose "Make a Joyful Noise," the anthem for the Coronation of King Charles III. Andrew Lloyd Webber was knighted in 1992, created an honorary life peer in 1997, and made a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter by King Charles III in 2024. He is the only person in the arts ever granted this personal honor by a monarch.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POTS FACT:

Even with the potential sacrelige often described by some religious groups, multiple Popes in the past fifty years have openly approved, and even endorsed, productions.

Show Information

Jesus Christ Superstar first gained attention and acclaim prior to it's official stage debut in 1971. The initial pitch was unable to gain enough backing for a fully staged production, so Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, who wrote the music and lyrics respectively, released a concept album in 1970. This was an immediate success, with a production being quickly greenlit to open in October of 1971. The show proceeded to run for over eight years on the West End before closing in 1980, holding the record as the longest running musical in London until 1989.

POTS FACT:

Despite multiple Broadway revivals and a decent number of Tony nominations, *Jesus Christ Superstar* never actually recieved an award for one of the productions.

The Story and the Origin

With a story loosely based on the story of the Passion, as described in the Gospel, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is considered one of the more divisive religion-based musicals of all time. The original story, and the musical, follows the final few days prior to the crucifixion and death of Jesus due to the betrayal of Judas Iscariot. However, unlike in the Gospel, this musical chooses to delve deeper into the psychology and choices made by the characters invovled, often making direct or alluded comparisons to real world events. With a rock score and multiple intentionally anachronistic choices in production, many in the religious community have spoken out about the sacreligious nature of the musical. However, just as many religious figures in the past several decades since the initial speak of *Jesus Christ Superstar* as a bold and thoughtful interpretation.

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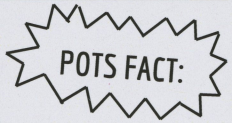
Accounts of the Passion are found across four gospels in the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) all give similar stories, but the Gospel of John has significant variations.

Leading With Heart

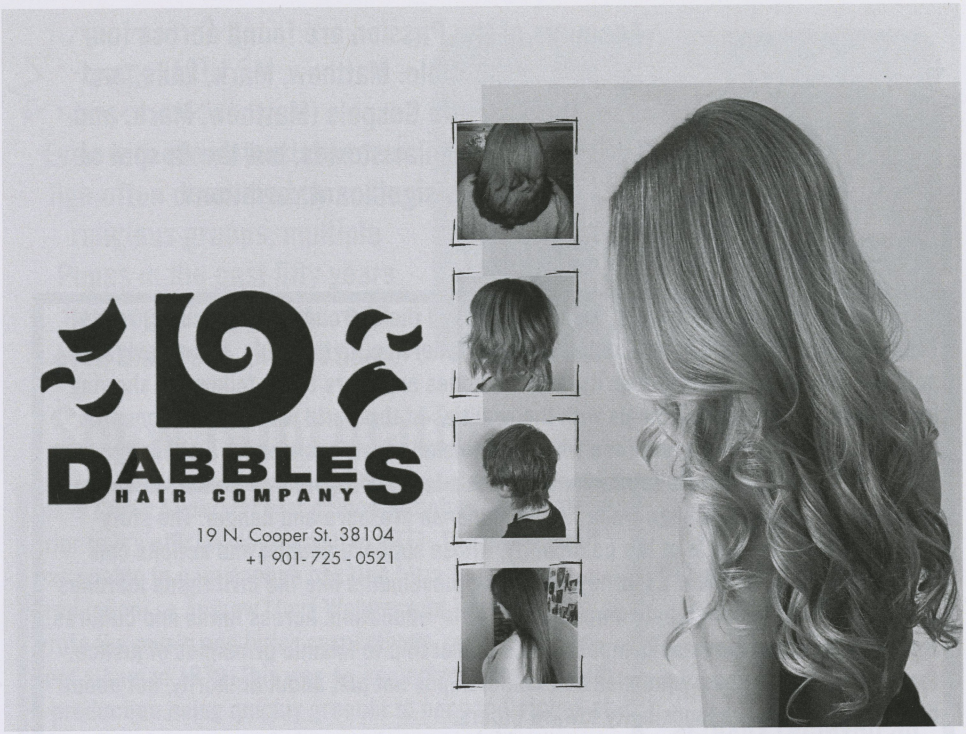
The relationships between Jesus, his disciples, and the surrounding community reveal the deep emotional and ethical challenges of leadership. In the Bible, Jesus navigates political tension, religious authority, and the hopes and fears of his followers, showing how leaders must balance ideals with the realities of the world while Judas' concerns highlight the struggle leaders face when their vision meets resistance, a challenge seen in history in figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malala Yousafzai, who have all inspired change while facing immense pressure and danger. The story also emphasizes the role of the community, whose support, doubts, and actions can profoundly shape a leader's journey, mirroring movements like the civil rights marches in the United States or global campaigns for girls' education. Across faiths and cultures, from Buddhist teachings on compassionate leadership to Islamic principles of justice, the story resonates as a reminder that leadership is not just about authority, but about care, courage, and responsibility toward others.

Reclaiming the Voice of Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene's presence provides a grounded, humanizing counterpoint to the story, yet her historical legacy reflects the broader biblical tendency to marginalize the influence of women. Traditionally, interpretations of the New Testament have often cast women in the shadows of the apostles, a person who is sent on a mission to advocate for a specific cause or belief, frequently reducing Mary Magdalene to a simplified figure that symbolized sin rather than acknowledging her role as a primary witness to the resurrection. Today, modern scholars and female leaders are reclaiming these narratives, highlighting the profound spiritual authority and unwavering strength women displayed within the early biblical movement. This shift mirrors contemporary global movements, from the grassroots activism of the Suffragettes to modern icons who have challenged patriarchal structures to redefine what it means to hold power. Across diverse traditions, from the Hindu veneration of Shakti as the primordial cosmic energy to the Jewish celebration of the bravery of Queen Esther, there is a growing recognition that the voices of women are not merely supporting characters, but are essential to the fabric of justice and transformation.



Reports of Mary Magdalene in religious text and sermon have varied greatly overtime. Early Christian writings portray her as a prominent figure favored by Jesus, but over the centuries she was reduced to a minor figure, eventually being labeled as a repentat prostitue despite there being no biblical basis for that claim.



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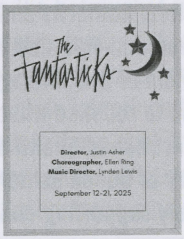

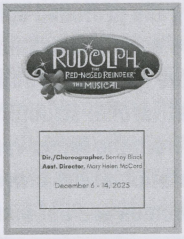

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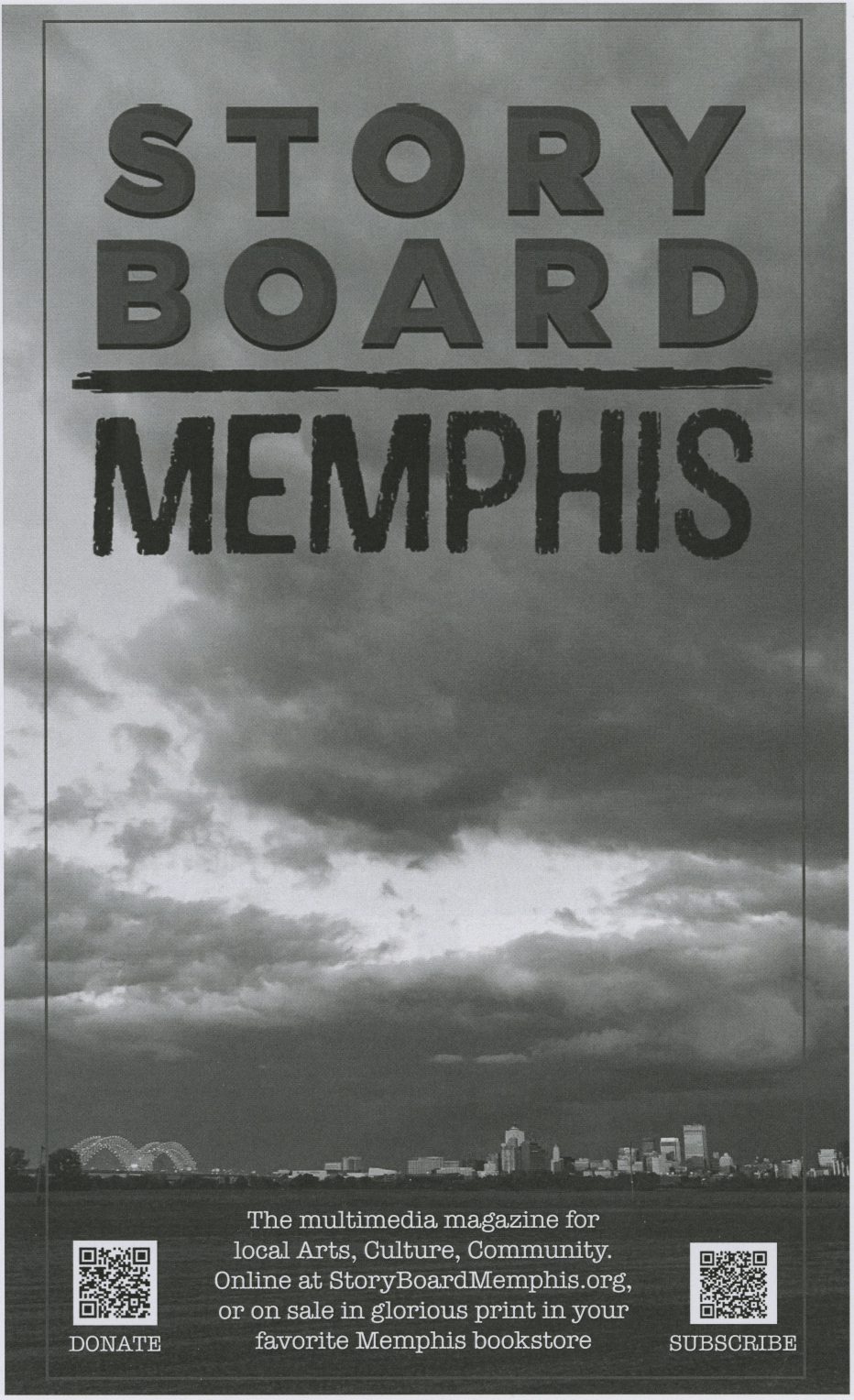
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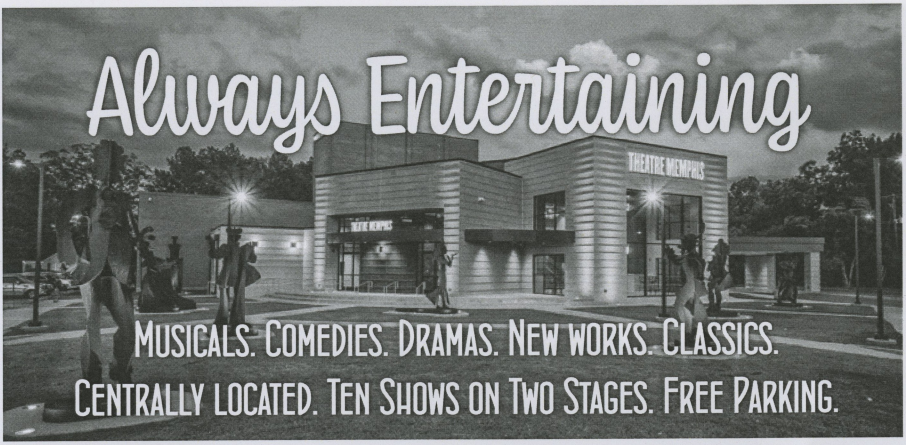
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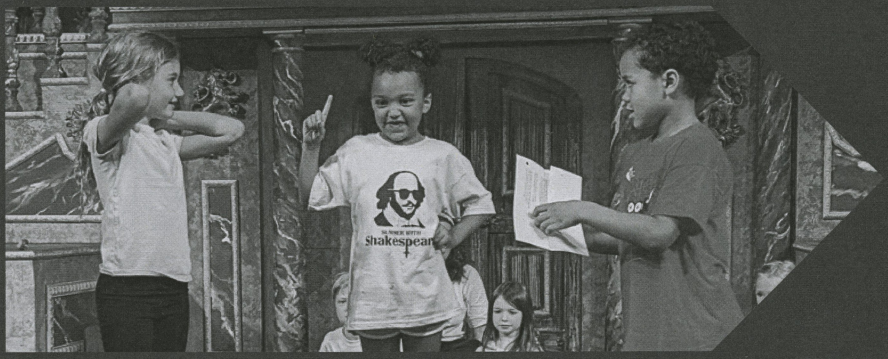

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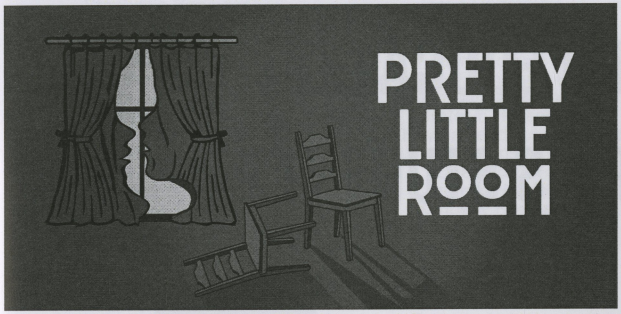

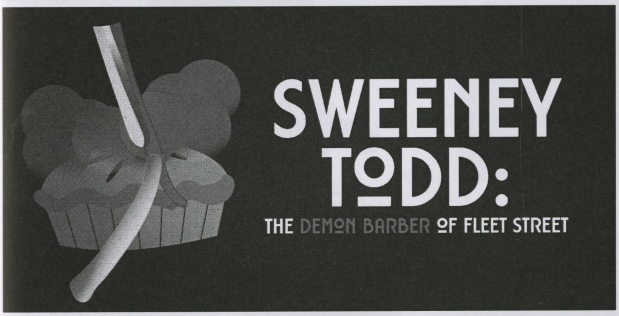

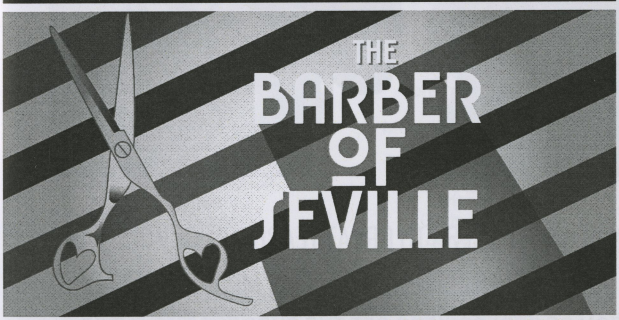

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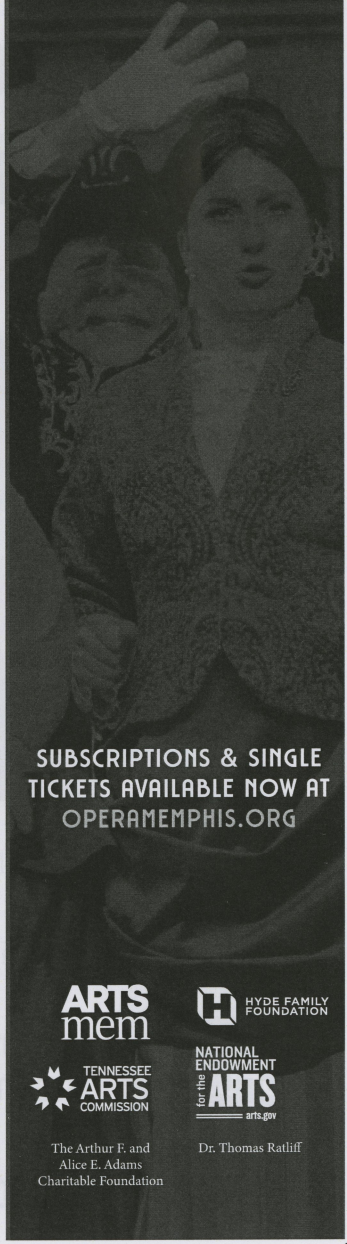

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Directed and Choreographed by Whitney Branan // Music Directed by Stephen Karr
Starring Matt Burns as Sweeney and Amy Nabors as Mrs. Lovett
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A winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this play by Eboni Booth dives into the mind of a seemingly ordinary middle-aged man named Kenneth, who spent most of his evenings at a local bar with his "friend" Bert. Kenneth loses his job at a local bookstore, forcing him to face a world that he has long avoided. Now, he has to learn how to re-establish his life while dealing with new revelations about himself and embark on an internal and external journey. Finding a renewed sense of purpose and self-discovery along the way, he navigates the challenges of disruption to his normal routine. This play tells a story of new friendships, new beginnings, and finding the courage to overcome personal barriers.

Directed by Tony Horne
Starring Marc Gill, Trey Oliver, Keia Johnson, and Dave Landis
May 8 - 31, 2026

Super Sponsor: Dr. Thomas Ratliff
Adult Tickets - $35
For reservations call 901.726.4656 or visit playhouseonthesquare.org

Special Thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts

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As of March 1

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As of March 1

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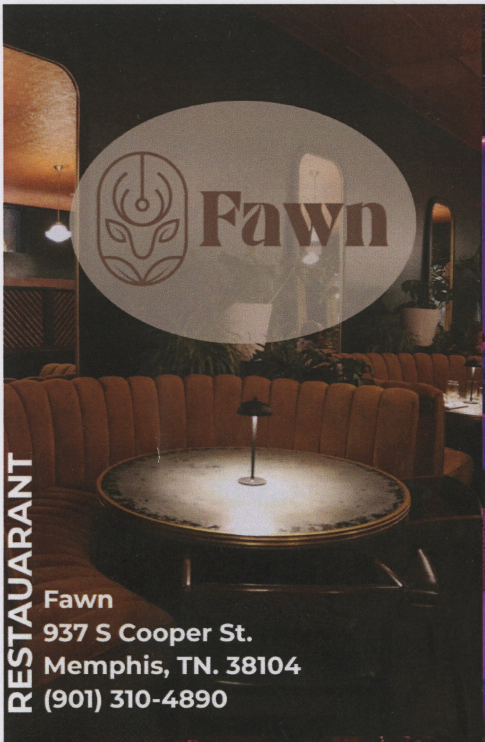

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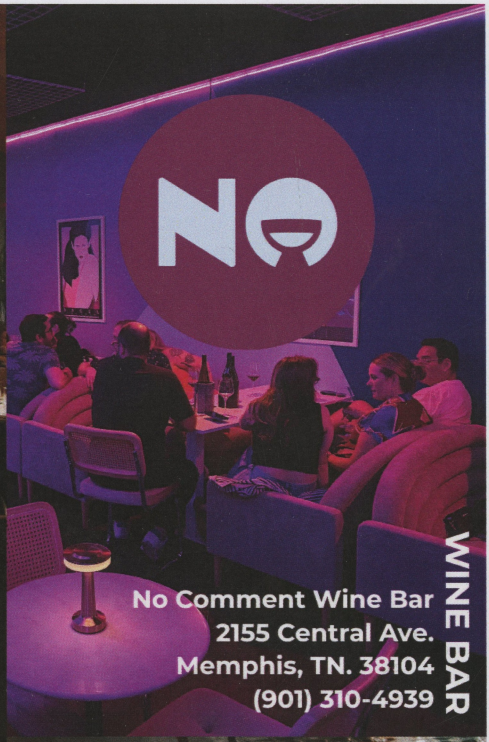

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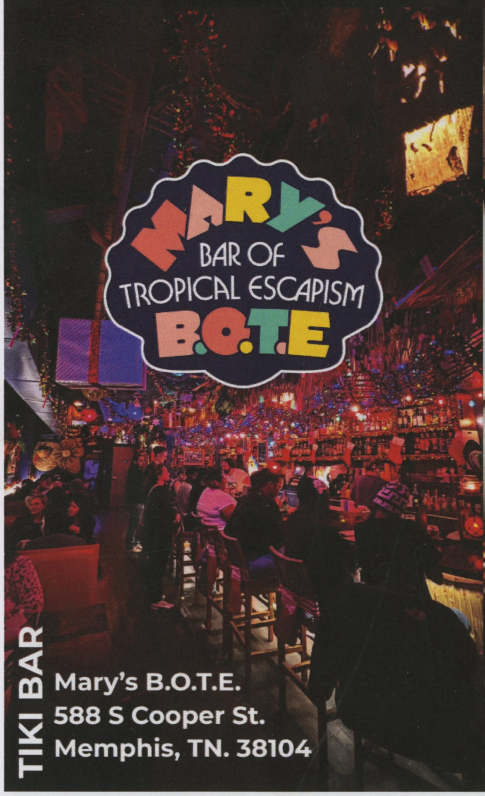

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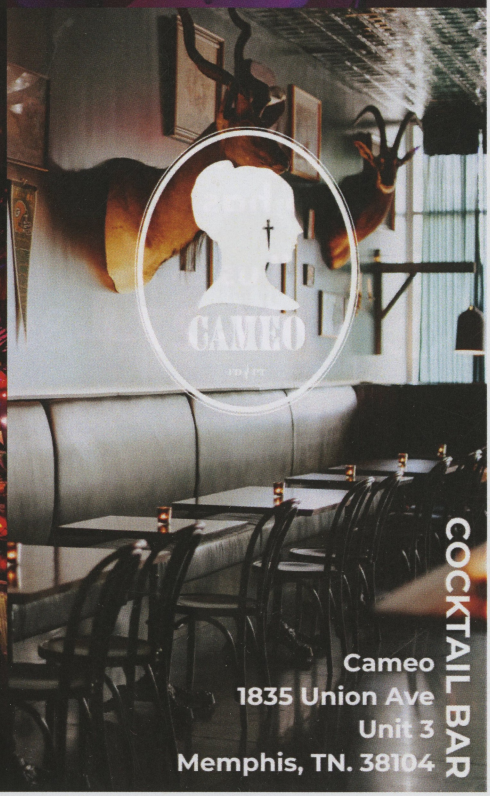

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